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FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Original letter of Oliver Cromwell, never before published, lately found in an old mansion-house, in the county of Hants.

Sr

I thought I should have seen you before your Going Down, but Missing of that I thought fitt to send this Short Epistle to you. I understand Coll Goffe will be att Winchester to Morrow. I hope you will assist him with your Countenance, he is honest and so is his buisness whoever shall say to the Contrary, and if Securyty be judg'd Necessary to be provided for against Maligts. and Papists, and reformation of Wickedness be a part of the Return we owe to God, then my Assertion is true, the person imploy'd is a Gracious Man if I know one and deserves your respect all that I have to say is to tell you that I love you.

I rest

Whitehall,

19 Novr. 1655

my Service to my Ld Say
if he be with you & to my Lady

To

Coll Richard Norton

These

Oliver Cromwell P.

Your Loveing Friend
OLIVER P.

[London paper.]

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

AN UGLY WIFE OR A GIBBET.

THE following amusing anecdote is extracted from a MS. sheet of the Border Antiquities of England and Scotland, which is now in progress of publication, and to which Mr. Walter Scott is a contributor:—

“ In the 17th century, the greater part of the property lying upon the river Ettricke, belonged to Scott of Harden, who made his principal residence at Oakwood Tower, a border-house of strength still remaining upon that river. William Scott, (afterwards Sir William) son of the head of this family, undertook an expedition against the Murrays, of Elibank, whose property lay at a few miles distant. He found his enemy upon their guard, was defeated, and made prisoner in the act of driving off the cattle,

which he had collected for that purpose. Our hero, Sir Gideon Murray, conducted his prisoner to the castle, where his lady received him with congratulations upon his victory, and inquiries concerning the fate to which he destined his prisoner:—"The Gallows," answered Sir Gideon, for he is said already to have acquired the honour of knighthood, "to the gallows with the marauder."—"Hout na, Sir Gideon," answered the considerate matron in her vernacular idiom, "would you hang the winsome young Laird of Harden when ye have three ill-favoured daughters to marry?" "Right, right," answered the Baron who caught at the idea, "he shall either marry our daughter, mickle-mouthed Meg, or strap for it." Upon this alternative being proposed to the prisoner, he, upon the first view of the case, stoutly preferred the gibbet to "mickle-mouthed Meg," for such was the nickname of the young lady, whose real name was Agnes. But at length, when he was literally led forth to execution, and saw no other chance of escape, he retracted his ungallant resolution, and preferred the typical noose of matrimony to the literal cord of hemp. Such is the tradition established in both families, and often jocularly referred to upon the Borders. It may be necessary to add, that mickle-mouthed Meg and her husband were a very happy and loving pair, and had a very large family, to each of whom Sir WILLIAM SCOTT bequeathed good estates, besides reserving a large one for the eldest.

[London paper.]

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR, The following letters, containing remarks on the society of Edinburgh, I place at your disposal.

W. P.

Edinburgh, — 1814.

THE courts of St. James and Dresden are, I believe, the only courts in Europe, where they continue to wear upon levee days the hoop, high-heeled shoe, and if one may so say, those other remnants of the dark ages of good breeding. But it may add somewhat to the dignity of a court, if people set apart for it a dress, which upon all other occasions is now distinguished for its inconvenience and absurdity. From private society, however, such deformities were long since banished, and those unfortunate hoops, which manoeuvred so brilliantly in the time of Sir Charles Grandison, have ascended to the garret along with the methodical principles of honour and politeness which prevailed in those